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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMCONSUL BELIZE

S E C R E T STATE 177781

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, XM

SUBJECT: PRE-IG REVIEW OF BELIZE CASP

REF: 76 BELIZE A-11

1. PRE-IG ON MAY 11 CONSIDERED BELIZE CASP. PRE-IG PARTICIPANTS RECOMMENDED FOLLOWING CHANGES IN CASP:

2. „ECONOMIC/SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT" SHOULD BE DELETED AS MAJOR ISSUE SINCE NO SIGNIFICANT CHANGE IN POLICY OR RE-SOURCE SHIFT IS PROPOSED DURING THE PERIOD.

3. UNDER "WORLD ORDER" DELETE THE TWO PARAGRAPHS ON CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES (P.9) AND SUBSTITUTE THE FOLLOWING: "THIS POSSIBILITY IS MOST LIKELY TO ARISE IF THE PRESENT ROUND OF TALKS BETWEEN THE U.K. AND GUATEMALA BREAK DOWN. IF NEGOTIATIONS STALL, WHETHER OVER THE QUES-

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TION OF TERRITORIAL CONCESSIONS OR SOME OTHER ISSUE,

WITHOUT ANY VISIBLE PROSPECT FOR RENEWAL, HMG MIGHT BE TEMPTED TO CONSIDER A UNILATERAL MOVE TOWARD BELIZEAN INDEPENDENCE. EVEN IF SUCH A MOVE ENJOYED BROAD SUPPORT IN THE UNGA, THE GOG MIGHT FEEL COMPELLED TO MAKE SOME MILITARY RIPOSTE TO DEFEND ITS OWN POSITION. AN ARMED CONFRONTATION OVER BELIZE WOULD UNAVOIDABLY DRAW THE USG INTO AN UNLOOKED-FOR INVOLVEMENT, WITH POTENTIALLY COSTLY DAMAGE TO OUR RELATIONS WITH ALL CONCERNED. SUCH AN OUTCOME WOULD ALSO EXACERBATE THE DANGER THAT BELIZE WOULD UNDERGO RADICALIZATION AND/OR SEEK TIES WITH CUBA."

4. DELETE OBJECTIVES 4-8 ON PAGE 10 UNDER "WORLD ORDER."

5. DELETE US ECONOMIC PROSPERITY AND US NATIONAL DEFENSE INTEREST SECTIONS (P. 10).

6. UNDER NEW HEADING, "OTHER INTERESTS," INSERT FOLLOWING DISCUSSION ON ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT OF BELIZE: "THE SUCCESSFUL EXTRICATION OF THE U.K. FROM ITS INVOLVEMENT IN BELIZE WOULD POSE A CHALLENGE TO OUR POLICY OF DEFERRING TO THE CARIBBEAN BANK AND OTHER DONORS FOR ADVISING AND FINANCING DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS IN BELIZE. WE WOULD BE SUBJECTED TO INTENSIFIED PRESSURE FOR A MORE ACTIVE ROLE IN ASSISTING BELIZE AFTER INDEPENDENCE. ONCE WE KNOW THAT INDEPENDENCE IS DEFINITELY SCHEDULED, WE SHOULD REVIEW OUR DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE POLICY. IF WE CAN IDENTIFY A DEFINITE NEED WHICH ONLY THE USG CAN FULFILL, AND IF IT IS DETERMINED THAT FILLING SUCH A NEED JUSTIFIES THE EXPENDITURE OF USG RESOURCES, WE MAY DECIDE TO ADOPT A NEW AND MORE ACTIVE ROLE. FOR EXAMPLE, A US CONTRIBUTION TO A REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT FUND TO PROMOTE COOPERATION BETWEEN BELIZE AND GUATEMALA MIGHT BE A GOOD IDEA. AS OF NOW, HOWEVER, IT APPEARS MORE LIKELY THAT THERE WILL BE NO NEED FOR A CHANGE IN THE BASIC PREMISES OF US ECONOMIC POLICY WHEN BELIZE BECOMES INDEPENDENT. WE SHOULD CONTINUE TO CHANNEL THE MAJOR PART OF OUR DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE THROUGH MULTINATIONAL LENDING INSTITUTIONS, ESPECIALLY THE CARIBBEAN DEVELOPMENT BANK. WE SHOULD MAINTAIN OUR PRESENT LEVEL OF PEACE CORPS INVOLVEMENT AND ATTEMPT TO GET THE GOB TO IMPROVE ITS UTILIZATION OF THE P.C. VOLUNTEERS. AT

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THE SAME TIME, WE SHOULD RESIST EFFORTS TO PRESSURE US INTO INCREASING OUR BILATERAL ASSISTANCE TO BELIZE, WHETHER THROUGH THE SPECIAL DEVELOPMENT FUND OR OTHER CHANNELS. WE SHOULD WORK TO MAKE BELIZEAN LEADERS AWARE THAT THE USG IS THE ORIGINAL SOURCE OF ASSISTANCE RECEIVED THROUGH THE CARIBBEAN BANK. WE SHOULD ALSO REMAIN READY TO CONSIDER ANY PROPOSALS FOR A REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT FUND ARISING FROM THE NEGOTIATIONS FOR INDEPENDENCE."

7. IN ADDITION, THE PRE-IG RECOMMENDED THAT THE FOLLOWING GUIDANCE BE PLACED IN THE DECISION MEMORANDUM: "THE CONSULATE GENERAL IN BELIZE, EMBASSY GUATEMALA AND CONCERNED AGENCIES IN WASHINGTON SHOULD CONTINUE TO MONITOR DEVELOPMENTS IN THE BELIZE DISPUTE WITH GREAT CARE. THE IG CONSIDERS THAT PARTICULAR ATTENTION SHOULD BE PAID TO THE POSSIBILITY THAT OTHER PARTIES MAY BECOME INVOLVED IN THE DISPUTE, APART FROM THE UNITED NATIONS. THE USG SHOULD
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ALSO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE POSSIBILITY HOWEVER REMOTE, THAT THE UK/GUATEMALAN TALKS MAY PROGRESS TO A POINT WHICH WOULD MAKE ADVISABLE CONSIDERATION OF SOME DIRECT INVOLVEMENT BY THE USG. THE IG JUDGES THAT NO SUCH OPTION SHOULD BE SERIOUSLY ENTERTAINED BEFORE THE PARTIES THEMSELVES HAVE COME VERY CLOSE TO SUBSTANTIAL AGREEMENT ON THE FINAL TERMS OF A SETTLEMENT AND USG INVOLVEMENT HAS BECOME CRITICAL TO THE CONCLUSION OF SUCH A SETTLEMENT. IT IS NOT CONTEMPLATED THAT THE USG WOULD, IN ANY EVENT, UNDERTAKE TO BECOME A GUARANTOR FOR THE SUBSTANTIVE PROVISIONS OF A FINAL AGREEMENT."

8. THE PRE-IG REVIEW DETERMINED THAT BELIZE CASP DOES NOT REQUIRE A FORMAL IG MEETING.

9. DRAFT DECISION MEMORANDUM AND CONSOLIDATED CHANGE SHEET WILL BE CIRCULATED TO IG MEMBERS FOR FURTHER REVIEW AND/OR APPROVAL IN ONE WEEK. KISSINGER

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